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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S AKROPOLIS INTERVIEW

REF: ATHENS 6742

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW APPEARING IN THE JULY 4 SUNDAY EDITION OF AKROPOLIS HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NUMEROUS PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE ESSENCE OF THEIR MESSAGE HAS BEEN THAT THEY ARE PLEASED TO SEE THE USG STANDING FIRM AND RESPONDING TO CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST IT CONCERNING ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1967, THE 1974 COUP AGAINST CYPRUS PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS. US INVOLVEMENT IN GREEK AFFAIRS HAS BECOME ACCEPTED MYTHOLOGY IN MANY CIRCLES, CONTEND MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE PERSONALLY PRAISED TO US THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, AND SUCH ALLEGATIONS MUST BE FIRMLY REFUTED. THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW IS A FINE STEP, THEY ADD, BUT STILL ADDITIONAL MATERIAL IS YET REQUIRED TO CONFRONT THIS MYTHOLOG.

2. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' PREDICTION THAT MUCH OF THE MEDIA MIGHT TEND TO DOWNPLAY THE AKROPOLIC INTERVIEW (REFTEL A) HAS SO FAR BEEN BASICALLY CORRECT AT LEAST IN THE ATHENS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA. EXPECTEDLY, THE COMMUNIST PRESS, AVGHI (KKE-INTERIOR)

AND RIZOSPASTIS (KKE-EXTERIOR), RAN CRITICAL EDITORIALS IN THEIR JULY 6 ISSUES, BUT HAVE SINCE DROPPED THE SUBJECT. THE ESSENCE OF BOTH EDITORIALS WAS THAT PAST AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN GREECE HAS BEEN WELL KNOWN AND PROVEN, AND THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS CANNOT CHANGE THESE "FACTS," LEFTIST, ANTI-AMERICAN ELEFTHEROTYPIA RAN A BRIEF SUMMARY QUOTING SOME OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS, UNBER THE TITLE "THE U.S. DID NOT HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE COUPS IN GREECE AND CHILE." (THE ONLY MENTION OF CHILE IN THE ARTICLE IS THE ERRONEOUS ASSERTION THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH WAS IN CHILE SOME YEARS AGO.) ALSO ON JULY 6, PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS, WHICH CARRIED THE INITIAL JULY 4 INTERVIEW, RAN A SMALL ITEM IN ITS "LACONIC" COLUMN TO THE EFFECT THAT WHILE THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS WERE REASSURING, IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT IMPRESSIONS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO WHAT HE SAID REMAIN IN THE MINDS OF THE GREEK PEOPLE. A POLICY WHICH CREATES SUCH FALSE IMPRESSIONS IS A WRONG POLICY, CONCLUDED THE COLUMN. THE CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE EKI KERA CARRIED A PIECE ENTITLED "THE AMERICANS AND 1967" WHICH REFERRED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS IN AKROPOLIS AND ASKED EXACTLY TO WHOM HAD THE AMERICANS EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS IN 1967 AND 1974, AND HOW CAN IT BE DISPROVED THAT JUNTA LEADERS ACTED ON DIRECTIVES FROM THE CIA. REGARDING THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS AND THE CYPRUS INVATION, THE ARTICLE NOTED THE TRIALS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CYPRUS TRAGDY MAY PROVIDE THE ANSWERS, IF AND WHEN THESE TRIALS ARE EVER HELD

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN THESSALONIKI REPORTED THE INTERVIEW WAS FRONT PAGE MATERIAL IN THE CITY'S ONLY MONDAY NEWSPAPER JULY 5. TUESDAY'S EDITIONS CARRIED FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH LESS PROMINENT, COVERAGE OF THE INTERVIEWS.
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